



CHICAGO LEGAL CLINIC, INC.

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July 3, 2017

Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. EPA Region 5 (MI - 9J)
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago IL 60604

Re: Schroud Realty Group Site, LPC# 0316555112/ ILN 000 505 540, Cook County, Illinois,
SW Corner of Avenue O and 126th Street, Chicago, IL (address also identified as 12801 S.
Burley Ave., Chicago, IL).

To the Freedom of Information Act Officer:

Please be advised that I represent the Southeast Environmental Task Force (SETF), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to environmental education, open space preservation and pollution prevention on the southeast side of Chicago, Illinois. SETF's members include several individuals who live in neighborhoods immediately adjacent to the Schroud Realty Group site, an inactive slag disposal site. Consequently, SETF is concerned about the clean-up of the site, the potential effects on human health and environmental quality, and the security of the site.

On behalf of SETF and pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request copies of the following documents in your files relating to the Schroud Realty Group site. This request does not include the CERCLA Site Inspection that was completed by the Illinois EPA Bureau of Land on or about February 8, 2017.

More specifically, I request all records related to the Schroud Realty Group site in the possession of U.S. EPA. The information I am requesting includes, but is not limited to:

1. documents pertaining to a removal action;
2. memorandum regarding a removal action;
3. documents related to any authorization for federal funds for a removal action;
4. records of any search results for potentially responsible parties;
5. any correspondence to potentially responsible parties;
6. documents pertaining to the Hazard Ranking System results for the site and the priority it has been assigned;
7. documents pertaining to a remedial investigation/feasibility study;

8. documents pertaining to proposed remedies for the site;
9. correspondence with other agencies on the state and local level regarding the site;
10. citizen complaints and the record of response to these complaints.

In making this request, SETF acknowledges the need to protect the privacy interests of citizen complainants, and will accept redacted documents consistent with this exemption.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(iii), I request a waiver of any and all fees which you incur in meeting our request. SETF is entitled to a fee waiver because it will use the requested information to inform and educate local communities about the process used by U.S. EPA to address a facility where there is evidence of a release of a hazardous substance into the environment, and it will not use the information to further any profit seeking venture. In considering this fee waiver request, the U.S. EPA should also consider the following factors.

- 1) The U.S. EPA has a statutory obligation to ensure that the Schroud Realty Group site is properly addressed if it poses a substantial and imminent danger to human health and the environment. Accordingly, all documents U.S. EPA has on file relating to the Schroud Realty Group site are pertinent to public understanding of government operations and the regulation of this specific site.
- 2) SETF plans to use the requested documents to better understand what actions are being taken regarding the removal and remedial activities at the Schroud Realty Group site. Having access to the requested information is essential for a greater public understanding in the affected community whether the EPA is taking the required steps towards a removal/remedial action. However, SETF cannot reasonably obtain the requested information from the public domain.
- 3) SETF also plans to use the requested information to inform and educate members of the community about changes in the environment and quality of life within the Calumet region. SETF's membership includes community organizers, and SETF operates a website from which it frequently disseminates information. With its population and membership, information SETF gathers can be distributed to a broad audience, enabling the public to gain a greater understanding of government regulation of a local waste disposal site.
- 4) The requested information is necessary for SETF to begin its investigation into the Schroud Realty Group site. Moreover, the requested information is not within the public domain. Therefore, disclosure of the requested information will enhance local citizens' understanding of environmental regulation of this facility.
- 5) SETF is a not-for-profit organization primarily concerned with educating neighborhoods about preserving natural areas and establishing green business practices within the Southeast Chicago area. SETF will exclusively use the requested information in order to further their informational and educational goals. SETF will not use the information to further any commercial interest.

You agency has twenty working days to respond to this request, however, if there is any problem with the document request or fee waiver provision please notify me before you proceed.

SETF is willing to accept electronic versions of documents. If documents are mailed, please send them to my attention at the letterhead address.

If the request is denied in whole or in part, I request a formal determination which explicitly refers to the statutory basis for your denial, and which describes SETF's rights to appeal within your agency.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith Harley".

Keith Harley
Attorney for the Southeast Environmental Task Force